



## EVENTS

### Milk Quality and Safety Seminar

The dairy industry is undoubtedly one of the single sub sector of agriculture in Kenya contributing to the national economy, household incomes and more importantly to food security. The sector's share to agricultural GDP and overall GDP is 14 and 4.5 percent respectively.



Despite its strategic importance, Kenya's dairy sector remains largely unregulated, with the bulk of milk sold in its raw unprocessed form in informal markets. There have been reports of unscrupulous value chain actors engaging in actions that compromise safety of milk by introducing contaminants, which are detrimental to the health of consumers.

CUTS Nairobi & Netherlands Development Organisation and Kenya Dairy Board organized a Milk Quality and Safety Seminar on January 29, 2019. The workshop was intended to mobilise stakeholders in the dairy sector to strategise on practical, efficient and sustainable strategies to improve the

quality and safety of milk and milk products. CUTS gave a presentation on the consumer perspectives emphasising on the role of consumer organisations in advocating for the rights of the consumer. From the meeting it was agreed scaling up the quality based milk payment system would be the ideal start to ensure milk quality and milk safety in the country.

### Progress Review of the Implementation of the E-Voucher in 2018

CUTS International, in collaboration with Oxfam, hosted a stakeholder consultation on the 'Implementation of the E-Voucher in 2018-19' at Lusaka on February 06, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of the e-voucher programme and discuss the outlook of the programme for 2019.

There was representation from the government through Smart Zambia, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. Some other key stakeholders included representatives from the Fertiliser Association, Zambia National Agro Dealers Association, farmers, civil society organisations (CSOs), media representatives and various players in the agriculture sector.



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### Options for Institutionalising Social Assistance in Zambia

CUTS organised a meeting to launch a report entitled 'Options for further Institutionalising Social Assistance in Zambia: A Rapid Political Economy Analysis' on February 15, 2019.

The report is based on the findings of a rapid political economy analysis that considers the question 'how strong is domestic ownership or buy-in to social assistance (and the social cash transfer in particular), what is driving this, and what is required to entrench it further?' The meeting was attended by members of CSOs, parliamentarians and media representatives.

## EVENTS

### Capacity Building for Dairy Value Chain Actors in Nakuru

CUTS in partnership with County of Nakuru and Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) organised a joint capacity building training for dairy value chain actors on milk quality and safety when handling milk on March 14, 2019. The capacity building was part of KDB carrying out their mandate on awareness creation and capacity building of dairy value chain actors. The training was intended to increase the capacity of dairy transporters to adhere to safety standards. The training was a result of

CUTS advocacy for improved capacity of dairy value chain actors. The participants received training covering KDB's mandate, dairy regulations, consumer safety, public health rules and enforcement.



### Pre-CSW63 Regional Civil Society Strategy Meeting

CUTS organised a regional civil society strategy meeting on March 04, 2019, in preparation for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2019 at New York to be held during March from 11-22, 2019. This regional convening in Zambia was held in an effort to agree on a regional position on women in the informal sector's access to social protection.

The outcomes of this meeting were presented at the CSW as well as various other forums at national, regional and global levels to amplify women's voices on this issue. The main outcome of the event was to develop a common advocacy position and policy recommendations with key messages that will be used to lobby governments prior to and during CSW63.



### World Consumer Rights Day 2018

As part of the activities to mark World Consumer Rights Day, CUTS Accra organised a media encounter at the Accra Conference room with a call on regulatory bodies to be proactive and implement existing regulations to protect the interest of consumers in the absence of a functional Consumer Protection Law in Ghana at Accra on March 15, 2019.

### Outcome Harvesting Write Shop

This Hivos organised event was held in Nairobi on February 11-13, 2019. The objective of the regional workshop was to build the capacity of implementing partners on harvesting outcomes under the SP-E programme. A review of the programme's theory of change was also conducted. The partners were also taken through the steps in documenting success stories as well as best practises. The workshop also presented Hivos and implementing partners with an opportunity to conduct self-assessment in terms of strengths and weaknesses experienced while carrying out programme activities.

### Validation of Kenya Consumer Food Safety Status Report

CUTS Nairobi validated the Kenyan Consumer Food Safety Status Report on March 20, 2019. The essence of the report is to spearhead the process that will lead to the country having in place a unified and sustained effective consumer voice. The report is meant to influence the policy processes/actions and to demand for accountability from all the stakeholders in the food value chain for improved food safety for consumers in Kenya. This was in line with the recommendation by stakeholders under Voice for Change Partnership programme. The report recommends the development of consumer associations/champions in counties and development of the unified consumer movement in Kenya.



## EVENTS

### Promoting Agro-processing Industry in East Africa

The seventh National Reference Group meeting (NRG7) under the project entitled, 'Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East Africa Community' (PACT EAC2) was held in Nairobi on March 12, 2018. The event themed 'Sustainable Agro-processing Value Chains in the EAC- Strengthening Regional Coherence' reflected on ways to achieve more sustainable agro-processing value chains in East Africa.



During this meeting, sustainability of PACT EAC2 ideas beyond the project closure in September 2019 were discussed. Some of the key recommendations included the need to create specific key messages around the regional block to advance the EAC regional integration; CUTS research materials should be used to continuously build the capacity of WTO negotiators; raising awareness on the key milestones of PACT-EAC2 as they have greatly benefited from the project's achievements as well as strengthening existing partnerships and forming linkages through stakeholder analysis.

### M&E Training in Agriculture

CUTS participated in an M&E training in agriculture organised by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) during February 25-March 02, 2019. The overall objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the CSOs in agriculture on M&E reporting and to enhance effectiveness of their advocacy work. The training also meant to enhance the quality of analytical outputs and involvement in results-based management within our organisation. The training workshop was a hands-on learning through lectures and practical assignments.



### International Food Safety Conference

CUTS participated in the first Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations/World Health Organisation/African Union International Food Safety Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 12-14, 2019. The conference presented a great opportunity for stakeholders working towards food safety agenda to exchange experiences and knowledge, learn global trends on food safety and network. During the conference, it was emphasised that "There is no food security without food safety."

## ONGOING/NEW PROJECTS

### Policy Reform for Private Sector Investment (PR41)

PR41 project, funded by US Agency for International Development through Africa Lead is themed 'Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme Process: The Case for Cassava Value Chain.' Its overall objective is to advance/incentivise private sector investment in agribusiness value chains. The project will comprise a research study as well as policy roundtable meetings in Nairobi and two counties engaged in cassava production.

## ONGOING/NEW PROJECTS

### Promoting Sustainable Diets for All

The project seeks to address the informal food system which is best positioned to address growing urban food insecurity in



Zambia, in general, and specifically Lusaka and Kitwe in particular.

However, the sector face significant challenges that constrain the effective provision of services to the growing urban spaces. Informal markets make food accessible to city residents, the majority of whom are poor. While the increase in the number of supermarkets and other retail outlets make food available, the majority of people living in Lusaka and Kitwe do not have access to these outlets.

### Reformation of Food Reserve Agency

CUTS International Lusaka is undertaking a project with Food Trade in providing checks and balances on the reformation of the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) in Zambia. The main objective of this project is to conduct a research and compare the current FRA Act to the FRA Bill that is before the Parliament. Thereafter, provide commentary on the findings and support the reform process for the FRA.

### Strengthening Voices of Women in the Informal Sector

This project will seek to contribute to this discussion by creating platforms in five different Southern African countries, namely: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Namibia where these issues will be discussed at the national level.



These discussions will then culminate in a regional convening which will be hosted in Zambia whereby women from these countries will come together in an effort to agree on a regional position on social protection. One woman from each country will then be selected to participate at the Commission on the Status of Women as well as various other forums at national, regional and global levels to amplify their voices on this issue.

### Assessing Energy Management in the Mining Sector

This project will conduct an assessment of the current status of energy management in the mining sector and review the technical and economic feasibility of implementing a scheme to promote energy efficiency in exchange for reduced electricity tariffs in the future.

### Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

CUTS Accra with funding support from SNV is implementing a project entitled 'Energy Sector Public Budget-Expansion Tracking'. The objective of the project is to track budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Energy to the district level and understand how they are utilised in energy sector-related projects.

### Farmers and Food Systems

This assignment will deliver the Zambia case study for a multinational project which examines the future of small-scale agriculture within a changing global, regional and national context. The work will explore different narratives, evidence and trends to address the over-arching foresight questions: In 20 years' time will there be a substantial role of small-scale agriculture in feeding the world, and in providing livelihoods for poor and vulnerable groups? What transformations are likely and what will the trade-offs be?

### Advocacy Hub and Policy Engagement Work

The main objectives of this project are to create a platform for highlighting CUTS proposed policy reforms in key areas of work supported by Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP), including on the agriculture and debt; enable CUTS to respond and influence ongoing economic debates on key issues, via media breakfasts or articles; and enable the organisation to raise awareness on key issues amongst the public, MPs and the media, particularly on debt through an article series, media activity and briefings with MPs and journalists.

### Analysis of Animal Feed to Poultry Value Chain in Zambia

This project involves the design, preparation and execution of the animal feed value chain study, which identifies challenges towards effective competition in the animal feed value chain. This also includes an evaluation of government interventions, especially focussing on how these shape incentives for firms to compete and invest.



More importantly, this value chain study will provide recommendations on the design of more effective policies that foster competition in the animal feed value chain and suggest how pro-competition policy reforms may have an impact on various economic variables in the animal feed value chain.

### Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

CUTS Accra with funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) is implementing a project entitled, 'Post Advocacy of COMPAD I.' The aim of the project is to ensure that gains made in COMPAD I is sustained and to see to the full operationalisation of the Competition Policy.

## ONGOING/NEW PROJECTS

### Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Nielson Ghana and funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is implementing a project entitled 'Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys on Information Disclosure and



Transparency, Fraud, Customer Recourse and Client Needs Assessments in the Mobile

Insurance Sector in Ghana'.

The principal objective of the project is to undertake a market survey in selected cities to understand the banking financial space in Ghana to enable a deeper understanding of the Ghanaian mobile insurance market as well as increasing usage of financial services by low-income households and MSMEs.

### Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Borderless Alliance and with funding support from the World Bank Group is implementing a project entitled 'Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border on the Tema Ouagadougou Corridor'. The main goal of this project is to assess impacts of reforms in customs transit system along Tema Ouagadougou corridor.

### Petition on Consumer Protection Law

CUTS Accra is undertaking an initiative 'Petition on Consumer Protection Law' to be passed in Ghana. The goal of the e-petition is to fast track the passage of the



Consumer Protection Law in Ghana through civil action and advocacy with 20,000 signatures. At present there are 2190 signatories.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** participated in IFS meeting on Petroleum Revenue Management in Ghana at Accra on March 27, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** attended the East Africa Budget Network Kenya Country level meeting on March 25, 2019.

**Martin Mulwa** attended preparatory meeting with East Africa Small-scale Farmers Federation (EASFF) and Kenya Small-scale Farmers Federation (KSFF) to plan for EALA Agriculture Budget Hearing on March 20, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** attended the celebration of World Consumer Rights Day 2019 organized by Competition Authority of Kenya on March 15, 2019.

**Daniel Asher** and **Martin Mulwa** attended a policy development meeting in Laikipia on March 15, 2019.

**Daniel Asher**, **Idah Kinya** and **Martin Mulwa** attended Kenya Dairy Board Capacity building for dairy value chain actors on March 14, 2019.

**Idah Kinya** and **Martin Mulwa** attended the public forum organised by Kenya Dairy Board on March 11, 2019.

**Collins Owegi**, **Jackline Wanja** and **Martin Mulwa** attended a Capacity Building Workshop for Consumer Bodies organised by Competition Authority of Kenya on March 07-08, 2019.

**Jane Zulu** attended a gender training organised by Hivos at Lusaka on March 06-07, 2019.

**Daniel Asher** attended Laikipia Agriculture Stakeholders Forum on February 25, 2019.

**Chenai Mukumba** attended a breakfast meeting on the AfCFTA organised by the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry at Lusaka on February 21, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** and **Shadrack Nii Yarboi Yartey** attended the Smart Radio Campaign launch organised by ACCION International on February 21, 2019.

**Daniel Asher** and **Idah Kinya** attended Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) pre-budget hearing forum on February 05, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** participated in the launch of the Foresight Africa report by the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings hosted in partnership with the African Centre for Economic Transformation at Accra on January 31, 2019. He also attended 2<sup>nd</sup> CSO Ghana Tax Dialogue Strategy Meeting, organised by Oxfam Ghana at Accra on January 31, 2019

**Ishmael Zulu** attended a brainstorming technical meeting on Grain Marketing & the Role of the Food Reserve and others in the Zambian Agriculture Sector at Lusaka on January 29, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** and **Jackline Wanja** attended Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) Validation workshop on January 29, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** and **Isaac Yaw Obeng** attended a half-day forum (round table discussion) on trade facilitation at Accra on January 24, 2019

**Idah Kinya** and **Martin Mulwa** attended planning meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference organised by the Council of Governors office on January 24, 2019.

**Clement Onyango**, **Daniel Asher** and **Martin Mulwa** attended Kenya Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (KECOPAC) consultative forum on January 17, 2019.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Understanding the Impact of Zambia's Growing Debt on Different Stakeholders

CUTS sought to raise awareness about the gaps within Zambia's public financial management system as it relates to debt and provide recommendations on how to address them. In an effort to do so, CUTS worked with the Daily Mail and News Diggers to produce a weekly column in each outlet. The series of columns focussed on growing debt in Zambia and its consequences. Timed to begin alongside the budget they provided a platform to raise awareness of the impacts of Government policy amongst the public and support influencing of the Government to tackle the growing debt problem. This brief contains six articles that were published from September 25-November 16, 2018.

[https://cuts-lusaka.org/pdf/Understanding\\_the\\_Impact\\_of\\_Zambias\\_Growing\\_Debt\\_on\\_Different\\_Stakeholders.pdf](https://cuts-lusaka.org/pdf/Understanding_the_Impact_of_Zambias_Growing_Debt_on_Different_Stakeholders.pdf)



## REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

### CUTS' Concern on Proposed Increment in Electricity Tariffs

*Lusaka Times, March 25, 2019*

CUTS is concerned with the proposed increment in electricity tariffs by the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation to the Energy Regulation Board. CUTS while it agrees that Zambia should indeed begin to gradually move towards cost reflective tariffs – particularly in light of Zambia's precarious fiscal position, consumer interests should remain at the centre of all decision-making. CUTS Communications Officer Chenai Mukumba said her Organisation is of the view that only following meaningful efforts towards internal reform of ZESCO should an increase in electricity tariffs for consumers be considered.

[www.lusakatimes.com/2019/03/25/cuts-concerned-by-proposed-increment-in-electricity-tariffs-by-zesco/](http://www.lusakatimes.com/2019/03/25/cuts-concerned-by-proposed-increment-in-electricity-tariffs-by-zesco/)

### CUTS Supports E-FISP

*Zambia Reports, March 21, 2019*

CUTS said the electronic Farmer Input Support Programme (e-FISP) delivers on the commitment to support growth in the Seventh National Development Programme (7NDP). The organisation stated that the e-FISP empowers farmers with choice, 'enabling them to improve their incomes and graduate from the programme, a long-elusive goal of the traditional FISP, under which poverty has remained stagnant'.

<https://zambiareports.com/2019/03/21/cuts-supports-e-fisp/>

### Consumer Protection Key in Digital Age

*Business Daily Africa, March 17, 2019*

With the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) marked on March 15, it is important to take stock of progress made in consumer markets so far. Over the past decade, consumer markets for goods and services have undergone profound transformation. Global markets and the use of new technologies are driving the changes in services. These changes without a doubt have brought significant benefits to clients and in many instances lead to improved efficiency.

[www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/Consumer-protection-key-in-digital-age/4259356-5029140-10rm1d/index.html](http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/Consumer-protection-key-in-digital-age/4259356-5029140-10rm1d/index.html)

### CUTS Applauds Zambia's Signing of the AfCFTA

*Lusaka Times, February 11, 2019*

Zambian President Lungu signed the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement on February 10, 2019. It was witnessed by Albert M Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry who signed on behalf of the African Union. CUTS applauds the decision of the Zambian government to join in the creation of the world's biggest free trade area as it is expected that the agreement will yield great benefits for the continent. Both Zambia and Botswana signed the AfCFTA agreement bringing the total number of signatories to 52.

[www.lusakatimes.com/2019/02/11/cuts-applauds-zambias-signing-of-the-african-continental-free-trade-area/](http://www.lusakatimes.com/2019/02/11/cuts-applauds-zambias-signing-of-the-african-continental-free-trade-area/)

### Borrowers need vital lessons on pitfalls of mobile money lending

*Business Daily Africa, January 02, 2019*

The African e-Commerce Week held in Nairobi provided a platform to discuss the importance of digital trade for Africa's development and structural transformation. Different panelists spoke of its potential to generate benefits and opportunities that could empower and promote inclusive growth. With regards to digitisation, Kenya was singled out as a global benchmark in the advancement of mobile money technologies for broader financial inclusion.

[www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/pitfalls-of-mobile-money-lending/4259356-4919018-t9og0y/index.html](http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/pitfalls-of-mobile-money-lending/4259356-4919018-t9og0y/index.html)

**CUTS Africa in Action** newsletter: Published by CUTS Lusaka, Plot 3653 Mapepe Road Olympia, P.O. Box 37113, Lusaka, Zambia, Tele/Fax: +260.211.294892, Mobile: +260-950-624874, Email: [lusaka@cuts.org](mailto:lusaka@cuts.org), and CUTS Nairobi, Yaya Court- 2nd Floor, No.5, Ring Road Kilimani off Argwings Kodhek Road, PO Box 8188, 00200, Nairobi, Kenya, Ph: +254.20.3862149, 3862150, 20.2329112, Fax: +254.20.3862149, Email: [nairobi@cuts.org](mailto:nairobi@cuts.org), CUTS Accra, PO Box AN 6156, 30 Oroko Avenue (Near Accra Central View Hotel and ATTC Kokomelemele), Accra-Ghana, Ph: 233-302245652, Email: [accra@cuts.org](mailto:accra@cuts.org). Head office: D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India, Ph: 91.141.2282821, Fx: 91.141.2282485, E-mail: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org), Web Site: [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

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